

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03882 160638Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 CU-04 DRC-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 /107 W

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R 160555Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9016

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CDR USSAG NKP

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3882

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL (JNPC) ACTIVITIES

REF: FBIS BANGKOK 150518Z MAY 74

1. PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG PRESIDED OVER THE THIRD PLENARY SESSION OF THE JNPC MAY 10, PRESENTING TO THAT BODY A "POLITICAL REPORT AMIDST THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE" ACCORDING TO REFERENCE WHICH COVERED RADIO PATHET LAO ACCOUNT OF EVENT. REPORT LASTED ALMOST TWO HOURS AND CONTAINED DETAILED POLICY PROPOSALS ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL, SOCIAL/RELIGIOUS, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS.

2. AFTER CONCLUDING HIS REPORT, SOUPHANOUVONG SAID THAT, "IN ORDER TO TURN IT INTO A COMPLETE NATIONAL POLITICAL PROGRAM," HE WOULD DISCUSS REPORT WITH BOTH JNPC VICE CHAIRMEN AS FIRST STEP. AS SECOND STEP, JNPC'S STANDING COMMITTEE WILL CONSULT AND REACH "UNANIMITY IN PRINCIPLE" ON REPORT. FINAL STEP WOULD BE FOR PLENARY SESSION OF JNPC, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD LATE NEXT WEEK, TO

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 03882 160638Z

ENDORSE REPORT. IT WILL THEN BE PRESENTED TO PROVISIONAL GOVERN-

MENT OF NATIONAL UNION (PGNU), WHICH WILL IMPLEMENT ITS GOALS STEP BY STEP.

3. WE HAVE OBTAINED 18-PAGE LAO-LANGUAGE COPY OF REPORT AND WILL COMMENT FURTHER WHEN IT IS TRANSLATED.

4. VIETIANE DAILY XAT LAO REPORTED THAT, DURING HIS SPEECH, SOUPHANOUVONG PROPOSED REVISING THE PRESENT CONSTITUTION, EMPHASIZED THE NECESSITY FOR AMERICANS AND THAI TO WITHDRAW TROOPS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CEASE ALL INTERFERENCE IN LAOS, AND SUGGESTED THAT LAOS "REINFORCE ITS FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES--ESPECIALLY ITS INDOCHINA NEIGHBORS." WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN A FULL FBIS TEXT OF THE SPEECH, BUT LOCAL LISTENERS REPORT THAT SOUPHANOUVONG TOOK A PRONOUNCED ANTI-AMERICAN TONE, CLAIMING THAT THE USG WAS "KEEPING MILITARY ADVISERS IN LAOS IN CIVILIAN DISGUISES, SENDING WEAPONS TO LAOS, SENDING RECONNAISSANCE PLANES OVER LAOS, AND KEEPING SPECIAL FORCES AND MILITARY BASES IN THAILAND TO THREATEN LAOS AND OTHER INDOCHINA COUNTRIES."

5. IN ANOTHER INTERVIEW, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT ALSO STATED THAT LAO CONSTITUTION MUST BE REVISED.

6. DIRECTOR OF LAO NATIONAL RADIO, KATH DITTAVONG, INFORMED US THAT "PATHET LAO SUPERVISOR" IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAD PRESSED HARD TO GET HIM TO BROADCAST SOUPHANOUVONG'S MAY 10 SPEECH IN ITS ENTIRETY OVER LAO NATIONAL RADIO STATION IN VIENTIANE. KATH WAS ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH BROADCASTING ONLY EXCERPTS. WE HAVE HEARD FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT THE VIENTIANE SIDE MEMBERS OF THE JNPC WERE INCENSED AT THE BROADCAST OF SOUPHANOUVONG'S POLITICAL REPORT MORNING AND EVENING OVER RADIO LUANG PRABANG BEFORE THEY HAD HAD A CHANCE TO CONSIDER IT. VIENTIANE SIDE MEMBERS TOLD SOURCE THAT SOUPHANOUVONG WAS RUNNING JNPC WITH STRONG HAND. LPF MEMBERS PRESENTED SOLID FRONT ON ALL ISSUES WHILE VIENTIANE SIDE REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNINFORMED AND IN DISARRAY. EXPECTATION IS THAT LPF WILL NOW CONDUCT NATIONWIDE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF "MASS SUPPORT" FOR POLITICAL PROGRAM, THUS MAKING ITS ADOPTION BY JNPC A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.

WHITEHOUSE

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